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RED MEAT PRODUCTION

West Virginia- Commercial red meat production during February 2008 totaled 500,000 pounds. This was up 5 percent from February 2007 and down 29 percent from January 2008 production. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 701,000 pounds live weight, up 12 percent from February 2007. Cattle slaughter totaled 700 head, up 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 1,018 pounds, was down 81 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 158,000 pounds live weight, up 14 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 500 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight, at 307 pounds, was up 16 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

United States- Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.97 billion pounds in February, up 10 percent from the 3.62 billion pounds produced in February 2007.

Beef production, at 2.04 billion pounds, was 4 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.64 million head, up 3 percent from February 2007. The average live weight was up 11 pounds from the previous year, at 1,285 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.0 million pounds, 9 percent below February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 69,100 head, up 4 percent from February 2007. The average live weight was down 36 pounds from last year, at 272 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.90 billion pounds, up 16 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.38 million head, up 16 percent from February 2007. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from the previous year, at 271 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.0 million pounds, was up 4 percent from February 2007. Sheep slaughter totaled 211,400 head, 3 percent above last year. The average live weight was 143 pounds, up 3 pounds from February a year ago.

January to February 2008 commercial red meat production was 8.38 billion pounds, up 9 percent from 2007. Accumulated beef production was up 4 percent from last year, veal was down 16 percent, pork was up 15 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 1 percent.

February 2007 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays February 2008 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

CHICKENS AND EGGS

United States egg production totaled 7.13 billion during February 2008, up 3 percent from last year. Production included 6.05 billion table eggs, and 1.07 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.01 billion were broiler-type and 64 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during February 2008 averaged 343 million, down 2 percent from last year. February egg production per 100 layers was 2,075 eggs, up 4 percent from February 2007.

All layers in the U.S. on March 1, 2008 totaled 343 million, down 2 percent from last year. The 343 million layers consisted of 282 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 57.6 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.84 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 2008, averaged 72.3 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from March 1, 2007.

Egg-type chicks hatched during February 2008 totaled 37.5 million, up 2 percent from February 2007. Eggs in incubators totaled 36.5 million on March 1, 2008, down 5 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of **egg-type pullet chicks** for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 280 thousand during February 2008, up 69 percent from February 2007.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during February 2008 totaled 777 million, up 7 percent from February 2007. Eggs in incubators totaled 679 million on March 1, 2008, up 2 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.43 million **broiler-type pullet chicks** for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during February 2008, up 5 percent from February 2007.

ANNUAL HATCHERY PRODUCTION

Broiler-type chicks hatched during 2007 totaled 9.57 billion, up 2 percent from 2006.

Leading U.S. breeders had intended placements of 87.4 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during 2007, up 2 percent from 2006.

Placements of broiler chicks on feed for meat production in the 19-State weekly program totaled 9.12 billion during the 52 week period ending December 29, 2007 up 2 percent from the 52 week period ending December 30, 2006.

Egg-type chicks hatched during 2007 totaled 446 million, up 4 percent from 2006.

Leading U.S. breeders had intended placements of 2.98 million egg-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during 2007, up 4 percent from 2006.

Turkey poults hatched during 2007 were up 4 percent from 2006, with 313 million hatched. Net poult placements totaled 308 million, up 4 percent from 2006.

The **capacity of chicken hatcheries** on January 1, 2008 was 917 million eggs, up 1 percent from January 1, 2007. The **capacity of turkey hatcheries** was 40.2 million eggs on January 1, 2008, up 4 percent from January 1, 2007.

QUARTERLY HOGS AND PIGS

United States inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2008 was 65.9 million head. This was up 7 percent from March 1, 2007, but down 2 percent from December 1, 2007.

Breeding inventory, at 6.14 million head, was up less than 1 percent from last year, but down slightly from the previous quarter. **Market hog inventory**, at 59.8 million head, was up 7 percent from last year, but down 2 percent from last quarter.

The December 2007-February 2008 pig crop, at 28.1 million head, was up 6 percent from 2007 and up 9 percent from 2006. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 3.05 million head, up 5 percent from 2007 and up 7 percent from 2006. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 50 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.21 for the December 2007-February 2008 period, compared to 9.09 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.30 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 3.05 million sows farrow during the March-May 2008 quarter, up slightly from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2007, and up 4 percent from 2006. Intended farrowings for June-August 2008, at 3.04 million sows, are down 2 percent from 2007 but up 4 percent from 2006.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 40 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 39 percent last year.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS 'March Ag Survey Results'

West Virginia - Corn plantings in West Virginia are expected to total 46,000 acres, unchanged from 2007, and up 2 percent or 1,000 acres from 2006.

Winter wheat planted area is estimated at 12,000 acres, up 50 percent or 4,000 acres from both 2007 and 2006.

Soybeans planted acreage is expected to total 15,000 acres, unchanged from 2007, and down 12 percent or 2,000 acres from 2006.

All hay acreage harvested is expected to total 610,000 acres, up 2 percent or 10,000 acres from 2007, and up 3 percent or 20,000 acres from 2006.

United States With 2007 Comparisons:

Corn plantings- 86.0 million acres, down 8%.
Oat plantings- 3.42 million acres, down 9%.
Winter wheat planted- 46.8 million acres, up 4%.
All tobacco for harvest- 350,920 acres, down 1%.
Burley tobacco for harvest- 97,200 acres, down 9%.
Soybean plantings- 74.8 million acres, up 18%.
Sorghum plantings- 7.42 million acres, down 4%.
Barley plantings- 4.15 million acres, up 3%.
All hay for harvest- 60.6 million acres, down 2%.

GRAIN STOCKS

United States - Corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2008 totaled 6.86 billion bushels, up 13 percent from March 1, 2007. Of the total stocks, 3.78 billion bushels are stored on farms, up 14 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 3.08 billion bushels, are up 12 percent from a year ago. The December 2007 - February 2008 indicated disappearance is

3.42 billion bushels, compared with 2.86 billion bushels during the same period last year.

Soybeans stored in all positions on March 1, 2008 totaled 1.43 billion bushels, down 20 percent from March 1, 2007. Soybean stocks stored on farms are estimated at 593 million bushels, down 35 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 835 million bushels, are down 5 percent from last March. Indicated disappearance for the December 2007 - February 2008 quarter totaled 904 million bushels, down 1 percent from the same period a year earlier.

All wheat stored in all positions on March 1, 2008 totaled 710 million bushels, down 17 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 92.0 million bushels, down 52 percent from last March. Off-farm stocks, at 618 million bushels, are down 7 percent from a year ago. The December 2007 - February 2008 indicated disappearance is 422 million bushels, down 8 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Durum wheat stocks in all positions on March 1, 2008 totaled 25.2 million bushels, down 35 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 8.10 million bushels, are down 53 percent from March 1, 2007. Off-farm stocks totaled 17.1 million bushels, down 22 percent from a year ago. The December 2007 - February 2008 indicated disappearance of 14.6 million bushels is up 17 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Barley stocks in all positions on March 1, 2008 totaled 105 million bushels, down 10 percent from March 1, 2007. On-farm stocks are estimated at 28.3 million bushels, 26 percent below a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 76.5 million bushels, are 3 percent below March 2007. The December 2007 - February 2008 indicated disappearance totaled 31.0 million bushels, 44 percent below the same period a year earlier.

Oats stored in all positions on March 1, 2008 totaled 79.0 million bushels, 11 percent above the stocks on March 1, 2007. Of the total stocks on hand, 31.0 million bushels are stored on farms, down 9 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 48.0 million bushels, up 29 percent from the previous year. Indicated disappearance during December 2007 - February 2008 totaled 15.4 million bushels, down 45 percent from the same period a year ago.

MILK PRODUCTION

West Virginia - Milk production in West Virginia totaled 46 million pounds during the January - March quarter of 2008. This was down 4 million pounds from the same quarter last year and down 3 million pounds from the October - December 2007 quarter. The number of dairy cows averaged 12,000 head, down 1,000 head from both the previous quarter and the same quarter last year.



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United States - Milk production in the U.S. during the January - March quarter totaled 47.6 billion pounds, up 3.2 percent from the January - March quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.25 million head, 112,000 head more than the same period last year.

Please call our office if you have not returned your Census of Agriculture form. Every voice counts. Thank you!

West Virginia Field Office
1-800-535-7088

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